

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A handle for use with an endoscopic device, the handle adapted for use with a single hand, the handle comprising:
- a housing adapted for gripping in the palm of a user's hand; and
- 10 an actuator for actuating an end effector associated with the endoscopic device;
- wherein the actuator is operable by one or more fingers of the same hand, and wherein the actuator is operable without the use of either of the thumb and index finger of the same hand.
- 15 2. The handle of Claim 1 wherein the actuator is operated by squeezing the actuator.
3. The handle of Claim 1 wherein the actuator comprises a lever.
- 20 4. The handle of Claim 1 wherein the handle does not comprise any components selected from the group of components consisting of syringe plungers, pistol grips, and scissors grips.
5. The handle of claim 1 further comprising a device for holding the handle to the
- 25 hand, wherein the device does not require active gripping by any fingers of that hand.
6. The handle of claim 5 wherein the device comprises a finger ring extending from the proximal end of said housing, wherein the finger ring is supported to swivel with
- 30 respect to the housing.
7. The handle of Claim 1 in combination with a set of instructions for operating the actuator without the use of the thumb and index finger.

8. The handle of Claim 7 wherein the set of instructions is directly associated with a medical device to which the handle is attached.
- 5 9. The handle of Claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a lever adapted to be squeezed toward the housing.
10. A medical device comprising:
- 10 a flexible member;
an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member; and
a handle operatively associated with the proximal end of the flexible member;
- wherein the handle comprises an actuator for operating the end effector through the
15 flexible member;
- wherein the handle is adapted to be gripped by a single hand and wherein the
actuator is adapted to be operated by the same hand holding the handle while the
thumb and index finger of the same hand are free to grip and advance the flexible
20 member.
11. The device of claim 1 wherein the end effector is selected from the group
consisting of a biopsy forceps, grasping forceps, surgical scissors, extractors,
washing pipes, needle injectors, non energized snares, and electrosurgical snares.
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12. The device of Claim 1 wherein the flexible member has a length of at least 0.5
meter.
13. The device of Claim 1 wherein the flexible member has a flexible shaft having a
length of at least 1.0 meter.
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14. The device of Claim 1 in combination with a set of instructions for operating the
actuator without the use of the thumb and index finger.

15. The device of Claim 14 wherein the set of instructions is directly associated with the device.

16. A system for operating a flexible endoscopic device with one hand comprising:
5 a handle comprising:
a housing adapted to be grasped by a single hand;
an actuator associated with the housing and operable by the hand holding the housing to actuate an end effector associated with the distal end of the endoscopic device wherein at least the thumb and index finger of the same
10 hand holding the housing are free to grip and release a flexible shaft of the device; and
a set of instructions for using the handle with a single hand.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to
15 hold the handle between the palm and at least one finger other than the index finger and thumb.

18. The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to use the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the handle to grasp a flexible
20 member extending from the handle.

19. The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to advance a flexible member using the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the handle.

25 20. The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to grasp the handle with the thumb pointing away from an end of the handle from which the flexible shaft extends.

30 21. A handle for operating a flexible endoscopic device with a single hand comprising:
- a housing;
- an actuator adapted to be squeezed without use of a thumb; and

- an actuation mechanism located at least partially within the housing and operatively coupled to the actuator wherein depression of actuator operates an end effector associated with the distal end of the flexible endoscopic device.